

Docket No. A2011-47

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on August 15, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Francitas post office located in Francitas, Texas. The petition for review was filed by Carolina Jalufka (Petitioner) and is postmarked August 6, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than August 30, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: August 16, 2011

Attachment

P.O. BOX 163
Francitas, TX 77961

August 3, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave
NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Received

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Office of PAGR

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission,

I am, Carolina Jalufka, a Francitas resident and I am writing to you to appeal the closure of the Francitas Post Office. I have been living in Francitas for the past 8 years and have seen the importance of the post office in my community. The Post Office was first established in 1911 with Hardy, Chase O. named as the first Post Master on January 26. Closing the Post Office would be detrimental to our town and we feel that the reasons given to close the Post Office not only goes against current laws, but have been skewed to favor an undesirable decision.

- Dean J Granholm, Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operation, states the reasons for the closure was lack of revenue, "performing below standards to operate as an independent Post Office," the lack thereof was caused by the Post Office management themselves. Services were not available to customers that would increase and sustain revenue for a Post Office to be self-sufficient.
- No improvements were made to solve the issues at hand and customers were not aware until a notice to close the post office was posted.
- Since removal of prior (OIC) USPS employee, sales have increased based upon the USPS standards level to operate our facility.
- According to Postal Regulatory Commission, maintaining ALL small and rural Post Offices amount to less than 0.7% of USPS total operating budget
- Current laws prohibits the Postal Service from closing or consolidating a Post Office "solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities"[section 101 (b) of Title 39 of the U.S. Code.].
- Closing the Post Office would discriminate against elderly and less fortunate residents causing them to travel greater than 8 miles for their postal service needs.
- USPS did not mail to every post office box holder a Questionnaire, Public Notice of Proposal, nor a Public Notice of Final Decision. Instead ONE copy was posted in a discrete manner to not be seen.

- USPS (OIC) employee was told not to give documentation, information, nor talk about the situation with customers unless customers ask for very specific documentation. Employees were told to “mind their own business” by USPS Executives.
- Closing the Post Office would cause loss of identity for the town.
- Francitas Post Office is considered part of Calhoun County during current evaluation when actually we are in Jackson County.
- No other options were considered when deciding to close post office. Ex: Citizens are willing to pay a fee for box rental and the landlord offered to lower monthly rental fee.
- Closing the Post Office would damper individual businesses and community services including Fire Department, Churches, and Cemetery.

In conclusion, I do not agree with the current decision to close the Francitas Post Office. This appeal not only outlines the reasons the Post Office should remain open, but identifies the mistakes made by USPS Management and Executives in making the initial proposal to close the Post Office. As current Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe decisively states, “Despite taking aggressive steps to reduce costs, the U.S. Service will not survive as a self-financing entity without significant changes to current law” (USPS News Release #11-021). I look forward to discussing the situation in the future. I appreciate the time taken to read this appeal and only hope that a sincere effort is made to solve this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carolina Jalufka". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Carolina Jalufka
Francitas Resident
(361) 588-7369